

Claim 4, line 4, before "side" insert --one--.

Claim 7, line 2, after "one" insert --said--;

line 2, cancel "having an interior";

line 3, before "hinged" inset --one said --.

line 3, before "latch" insert --said--.

Claim 10, line 3, before "side" insert --one--.

Claim 12, line 2, before "side" insert --one--.

Claim 24, line 2, change "components" to read --component--;

line 3, cancel "at least one compartment".

Claim 25, line 6, after "box" insert --having an opening

C3 therein--;

C4 line 10, after "box" insert --through said  
opening--.

Claim 35, amend to read as follows:

35. (Amended) A hidden storage system for a vehicle having a

conventional bed without substantially altering an external appearance of side panels of the conventional bed compared to an external appearance of an identical conventional bed without the hidden storage system, said conventional bed comprising [of] a floor section, a front wall section two side panel sections, and a [tail gate] tailgate section, with all sections being of substantially the same height, and being adapted to be mounted on wheels, said storage system comprising:

a storage box having an opening mounted on at least one side of said conventional bed, said opening of said storage box

being located adjacent [a] one of said side panel sections of said at least one side of said conventional bed,

at least one portion of an overall length of said one of said [a] side panel sections adjacent said storage box being hinged, whereby said hinged portion of said one of said side panel sections can be moved outward to expose an interior of said storage box via said opening in said storage box and moved inwardly to cover said opening and thus the interior of said storage box, without substantially altering the height of and the external appearance of said [overall] one side panel section of said conventional bed, and

a lock/latch mechanism mounted to releasably secure said at least one hinged portion of said one side panel section.

Claim 36, line 2, before "includes" insert --further--.

Claim 38, amend to read as follows:

38. (Amended) The hidden storage system of Claim 35, wherein each side of said bed is provided with one said [a] storage box [having an opening therein] positioned adjacent each of said [a] side panel sections of said bed, and wherein at least one portion of an overall length of both said side [panels] panel sections adjacent said storage boxes are hinged portions of said side panel sections expose or cover the interior of said storage boxes, and lock/mechanisms for securing each of said hinged portions of said side [panels] panel sections.

Claim 40, amend to read as follows:

40. Amended) The hidden storage system of Claim 35, wherein  
the at least one hinged portion of [the] said one of said side panel  
sections has a length of substantially the overall length of said one  
of said side panel sections, and is hinged horizontally at an upper  
end section thereof, whereby outward movement of said hinged portion  
of said one of said side panel sections raises said portion to expose  
the interior of said storage box along substantially an exterior  
length of said storage box.

Claim 41, line 3, change "side panel" to read -one of said  
side panel sections--.

Claim 42, line 1, after "said" insert --one of said--;

line 2, after "panel" insert --sections--.

Please add the following claims:

*Sub A3) Sub E1*  
43. In a vehicle having contoured side panels, a hidden  
storage system comprising:

at least one hinged contoured side panel section in at  
least one of said side panels,

at least one storage box having an interior and an  
opening therein located adjacent said at least one hinged contoured  
side panel section, and

a lock/latch mechanism for said at least one hinged  
contoured side panel *section*,

said hidden storage system being constructed to not

substantially alter an external appearance of the contoured side panels of the vehicle.

44. The hidden storage system of Claim 43, wherein said at least one hinged contoured side panel section is hinged to open ~~outwardly, upwardly, downwardly or sideways.~~

45. The hidden storage system of Claim 43, additionally including at least one strut assembly for maintaining said at least one hinged contoured side panel section in an open position, said at least one strut assembly being provided with means selected from the group consisting of insulating means, heating means, and heating and insulating means.

46. The hidden storage system of Claim 43, additionally including at least one drain/air relief valve assembly mounted in a bottom area of said at least one storage box.

47. The hidden storage system of Claim 43, wherein said vehicle includes at least one hinged contoured side panel section in each of said contoured side panels, ~~said~~ a storage box having an interior and an opening therein located adjacent at least each of said hinged contoured side panel sections, and ~~one~~ lock/latch mechanism for each of said hinged contoured side panel sections.

48. The hidden storage system of Claim 47, wherein said vehicle includes a pickup bed having said contoured side panels, and wherein said storage boxes are located within said bed, and wherein access to said storage boxes in said bed is only available via at